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Reforms

Memorandum of Madras Government to the Simon Commission.

* 465 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the memorandum of this Government to the Simon Commission was sent by both halves of the Government or only by the Reserved half;

(b) whether the memorandum embodies the views of the hon. the Ministers either on the working of the Transferred departments or on further reforms; and

(c) what those views are?

A.—(a) The reports sent to the Statutory Commission were sent by the Governor in Council: in so far as they related to transferred subjects they were approved by the hon. the Ministers.

(b) & (c) The answer to clause (b) is in the negative.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"With reference to the answer to clause (a), may I know whether the reports contain the opinions of the Members of Government either on the Reserved or on the Transferred side, apart from stating facts?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"The reports so far sent deal with facts."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I take it, therefore, in order to make it clear that the reports sent to the Statutory Commission by the Governor in Council do not express any opinions either on the working of the Reforms which have been granted or on further reforms needed in the opinion of this Government?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"My difficulty, Sir, is that I am not aware how far I am entitled to disclose the contents of the reports sent to the Statutory Commission."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, you will notice that my question, clause (b), is, 'whether the memorandum embodies the views of the hon. the Ministers either on the working of the Transferred departments or on further reforms.' The answer says, 'the answer to clause (b) is in the negative.' I am therefore asking whether as a matter of fact the report sent to the Simon Commission by this Government either on the Reserved or on the Transferred side contained merely statement of facts relating to the working of the Reforms, or whether they contained the opinions of the Government either on the working of the Reforms as they are or on further reforms?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"I think I already said they were statement of facts."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"No opinion at all?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"Opinions may be read into them. That is another matter."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I am not asking the hon. the Revenue Member to perform an impossible feat. I am asking, so far as this Government is concerned whether they put forward any opinions . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question has already been answered that the reports contain only facts and no opinions."

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Mr. D. Narayana Raju :—" Since the reports only furnish information may I know whether any further reports are contemplated stating the views of the Government ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" If the hon. Member asks me to say something about what has not been done, I cannot undertake to do that."

Mr. P. Anjaneyulu :—" In answer to clause (*a*), it is said, 'in so far as they related to Transferred subjects they were approved by the hon. the Ministers.' May we know whether, so far as Reserved subjects are concerned, the reports were put for the approval of the Ministers also ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" That is a question I cannot answer."

Mr. P. Anjaneyulu :—" May we take it that it is a consolidated memorandum which also got the approval of the Ministers ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" The hon. Member may draw what inference he pleases."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether the Simon Commission asked for any specific information and the Government have sent their report on that, or whether they have asked for information and views ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" These reports, Sir, we sent with reference to the circular which was published and circulated broadcast. I cannot repeat now what the contents of that circular are."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*a*) of the question that the reports sent to the Statutory Commission were sent by the Governor in Council, may I know whether the phrase 'Governor in Council' means only the Reserved half and not the Transferred half ? Then, may I ask the hon. the Chief Minister with your leave. . . ."

The hon. the President :—" The hon. Member will have to put a separate question to the hon. the Chief Minister."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" I want to know whether, so far as the report relating to the Transferred side is concerned, the Ministers expressed any opinions on them, or they simply approved of what was written by the Reforms Special Officers ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" It is said, Sir, in answer to clauses (*b*) and (*c*) that the answer is in the negative. Therefore, there were no views expressed."

Mr. K. R. Karant :—" May I know whether the Government have any objection to place this memorandum on the table of this House ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" We cannot publish communications made to another authority."

Mr. K. R. Karant :—" After asking their permission, Sir ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" Hardly for this Government to ask for permission."

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" In view of the fact that portions or rather elaborate summaries of those reports were published by the Associated Press, in view of that partial publication of the reports, may I ask whether they intend to publish the whole of those reports ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I think the hon. Member is confusing two things. The reports referred to by the hon. Member are the reports first made in 1923, then revised in 1924 and revised again in 1927, long before the appointment of the Statutory Commission. Those are the reports which have been published, and not these reports to the Statutory Commission."

Revenue Establishments

Oriyas directly recruited as Deputy Tahsildars since 1922.

* 466 Q.—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Oriya candidates directly recruited as Deputy Tahsildars since 1922 ;

(*b*) the number of direct recruitments to this cadre since 1922 ;

(*c*) the number of Oriya candidates who appeared at these selections ; and

(*d*) the reasons why no Oriya was selected ?

A.—(*a*) Nil.

(*b*) Twelve.

(*c*) Eight.

(*d*) Because other candidates were held to be better qualified.

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Regarding answer to clause (*b*), may I know the qualifications of those that were recruited ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I must ask for notice, Sir."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Regarding answer to clause (*d*), may I know the qualifications of those other candidates ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Does the hon. Member mean technical qualifications ? If so, I can put a statement on the table."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Regarding answer to clause (*d*) again, may I know what Government mean by ' better qualified ', when to my knowledge Oriya graduates and B.A. Honours men appeared for the selection ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I may say there were 612 candidates for these twelve posts. It is rather difficult to say why twelve were preferred out of over six hundred."

Government Press

Pay and allowances of the Superintendent, Government Press.

* 467 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state with reference to G.O. Press No. 672, Public, Fort St. George, dated 11th August 1928—

(*a*) why the Government have considered the appointment of as many as five officers of the Superintendent's cadre necessary ;